

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 26, 1999 LB 630, 835

would have come up this afternoon where I'm going to go into a lot of things about a task force that I want to have created this summer and fall with...reporting back here by next year, of what we might be able to do react to the way I sense agriculture's going. And I'm going to go in, in this bill, into what direction that I think...the questions that ought to be answered, including structure, entry of young people into agriculture, national security, and some other things. That's going to be all part of what I consider in the study. Right now...I don't...I guess it's not right this minute...but coming up in St. Louis is a meeting of national organizations. Part of that...the reason I'm speaking to this, and I wasn't going to...is the issue Senator Chambers raised. I don't like the direction that agriculture's going. Perhaps we are destined to a corporate agriculture in this country after 150 years, and what most of all our ancestors in here left Europe for, because of the feudal serf...if that's the way we're headed in America, okay. And I'll talk a lot more about that in the future. But I'm going to do what I can to resist. This is only a small, small part of that, to try to keep young people out in agriculture across this whole state, so we don't have a wasteland out there, so to speak, of nothing but land and land and land and no people on it except those that drive in occasionally, farm it, plant the crop, then drive away, and come back in the fall and harvest. This is about development of small towns, hopefully. Or...not the development, but the continuation of small towns in many cases. Somehow, there's got to be some opportunity out there in the future. And if I can't change it, so be it. But I see it as a part of the Nebraska Legislature to help direct this change in the future at federal farm policy, because they're listening to Senator Dierks and LB 835 at the federal level, and I think they'll listen to us some more. It wasn't only about 15 years ago as I recall...I was not here; Senator Beutler was...this whole body got on an airplane and went to Washington DC, because of the seriousness of the crisis. I think it was 1985. Is that about right, Senator Beutler? That's how serious our ancestors have taken this issue. I'm not saying we should fly to Washington. But I believe we have to do some things to change the direction of Nebraska and the American agriculture. I've got so many statistics it'll make your head swim, and it's not the proper thing to do it on this bill, except to say that this I